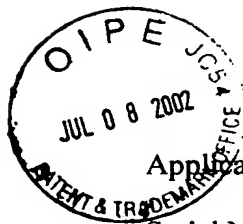


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Akira Shiohara

Serial No.: 10/047,208

Filed: January 14, 2002

Title: ARTICLE JOINING CONTROL METHOD

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Date of deposit with the U.S. Postal Service June 26, 2002. I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail under 37 CFR 1.8 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Melissa Dadisman  
Melissa Dadisman

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In order to comply with 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98, a copy of Form PTO/SB/08A and copies of the documents listed on it are attached.

In accordance with MPEP §§ 609 and 707.05(b), Applicant(s) respectfully requests that each document listed be given thorough consideration and that the Examiner cite each document of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing form PTO/SB/08A next to each document. Applicant(s) requests such initialing even if the Examiner does not consider: (1) a listed document to be sufficiently pertinent to use in a rejection; (2) a document to be prior art for any reason; (3) that the guidelines for citation have been fully complied with respecting a particular document. Applicant(s) makes this request so that each document becomes cited on the face of a patent issuing on the present application.

Applicant(s) submits the present Information Disclosure Statement in compliance with the duty to disclose information material to patentability under 37 CFR § 1.56, but

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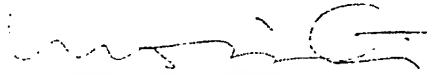
by listing such documents Applicant(s) is not admitting that such documents are necessarily relevant or prior art. Applicant(s) intends no representation that the listed documents represents the results of a complete search. Applicant(s) anticipates that the Examiner, in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search to determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR §§ 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) and , in the course of such search, will review for relevance every document listed on the attached form even if not initialed.

Applicant(s) earnestly solicits early and favorable consideration.

If it is determined that any fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and respectfully requested to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0852.

Respectfully submitted,

REISING, ETHINGTON, BARNES, KISSELLE,  
LEARMAN & McCULLOCH, P.C.



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William H. Griffith  
Registration No. 16,706  
P.O. Box 4390  
Troy, Michigan 48099  
(248) 689-3500

Date: June 26, 2002